

Message Text

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47

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9306

DOD WASHDC

INFO USMTM DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6792

LIMDIS

DOD FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: SAG INTEREST IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED, CONTRACT-MANAGED
MILITARY PRODUCTION

REF: (A) JIDDA 6657

(B) STATE 250243

1. DURING PRINCE TURKI'S TRANSIT OF JIDDA AIRPORT EN ROUTE LONDON AND WASHINGTON, COL. YUSSUF SALOUM, DIRECTOR OF MODA OFFICE OF PLANNING AND BUDGET, TOOK EMBASSY OFFICER ASIDE AND SHOWED HIM SAG-SECRET PAPER HE WAS CARRYING TO WASHINGTON TITLED OUTLINE PLAN FOR COOPERATION WITH USA IN MILITARY PRODUCTION. SALOUM STATED THAT DURING ELLSWORTH MEETING WITH PRINCE SULTAN, SULTAN HAD REQUESTED A TAF TEAM OF FOUR SPECIALISTS TO COME TO SAUDI ARABIA TO STUDY EXISTING MILITARY AMMUNITION AND RIFLE FACTORIES AT AL-KHARJ, NEAR RIYADH. SPECIALISTS REQUESTED WERE:
(1) AN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER, (2) A CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, (3) A TRAINING SPECIALIST AND (4) A SPECIALIST IN FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION. MR. ELLSWORTH HAD INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SEND TEAM TO STUDY SAG CAPABILITIES IN INDUSTRIAL-
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IZATION, TRAINING, AND RESEARCH IN MILITARY-RELATED AREAS,

SAID COL. SALOUM.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT HE DOUBTED WASHINGTON WOULD BE PREPARED ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE TO DISCUSS SAG INTERESTS IN THIS AREA IN MUCH DETAIL, BUT SUGGESTED COL. SALOUM MIGHT FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW REQUEST FOR TAF TEAM. THUS SUBJECT MAY BE RAISED.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS NOT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN CO-PRODUCTION, BUT IT COULD EASILY LEAD TO THAT AS SAG BECOMES INCREASINGLY AWARE OF USG COOPERATION WITH IRAN IN THIS AREA. DURING RIYADH ELLSWORTH TALKS, US SIDE WAS CAREFUL TO SPEAK ONLY OF GOVERNMENT (SAG)-OWNED, CONTRACT MANAGED FACILITIES. WE WILL BE REPLYING LATER AT MORE LENGTH TO STATE 250243 WHICH SOLICITED COMMENTS ON CO-PRODUCTION ISSUE.
AKINS

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Message Attributes

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